

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00818 010948Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 /097 W  
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R 010804Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3151  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0818

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, SW, CU  
SUBJECT: DEBATE CONTINUES OVER SWEDISH AID TO CUBA

1. CUBAN INVOLVEMENT WITH AND ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIAN FORCES HAS AGAIN RAISED ISSUE OF WHETHER SWEDISH AID TO CUBA SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED. THE DEBATE WAS SPARKED BY MODERATE PARTY MP MARGARETA AF UGGLAS IN A FEBRUARY 18 SPEECH IN VASTERAS, WHERE SHE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS "HIGH TIME" THAT THE GOS CUT OFF AID. SHE POINTED TO CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN CONFLICTS IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA AND PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT AFRICA. IN HER VIEW, "IT CAN HARDLY BE IN CONFORMITY WITH TRADITIONAL SWEDISH NEUTRALITY POLICY TO GIVE SWEDISH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO A COUNTRY INVOLVED IN MILITARY CONFLICTS LONG FROM THE COUNTRY'S OWN FRONTIERS." SHE POINTED OUT THAT HOLLAND HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO END ITS AID TO CUBA, AND THAT SWEDEN WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST IN THIS REGARD. HER MODERATE PARTY COLLEAGUE, ANDERS BJORK, ALSO AN MP, ECHOED HER LINE IN A FEBRUARY 25 NEWSPAPER COLUMN CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CUT OFF AID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS  
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00818 010948Z

PART OF AN EFFORT TO FORM A CLEAR CUT ALTERNATIVE TO "SOCIALIST" (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC) POLICIES.

2. MINISTER OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OLA ULLSTEN, TO BE NAMED NEXT WEEK PER AHLMARK'S SUCCESSOR AS LIBERAL PARTY LEADER, EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN DIFFERENT AFRICAN WARS, BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD

ALLOW SWEDISH COMMITMENTS TO CUBA TO REACH THEIR SCHEDULED CONCLUSION IN 1979-80. SWEDISH AID HAS BEEN SUCCESSIVELY CUT DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS AND NOW AMOUNTS TO ABOUT \$7.5 MILLION PER YEAR, CHanneled MAINLY TO A TEXTBOOK PRINTING HOUSE IN EASTERN CUBA AND TO A FOOD INSTITUTE BEING READIED NEAR HAVANA.

3. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE CALLED FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO CUBA. SDP INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY PIERRE SCHORI, IN A RECENT TV INTERVIEW, SUGGESTED THAT CUBA FULFILLS THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF AID, AS IT IS A DYNAMIC DEVELOPING COUNTRY WELL ADAPTED TO MAKING USE OF ASSISTANCE. CUBA, HE FEELS, IS AN "IDEAL" AID RECIPIENT AND, OVER TIME, SWEDISH AND OTHER WESTERN AID TO CUBA IS REQUIRED TO REDUCE ITS NEARLY COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON THE USSR.

4. COMMENT: OTHER THAN ULLSTEN AND MODERATE PARTY REPS, GOS ITSELF HAS MADE NO STATEMENT THUS FAR ON CUBA'S GROWING AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. GIVEN SWEDISH RELUCTANCE TO MAKE A MOVE THAT WOULD SIGNAL ANY KIND OF "BREAK" WITH CUBA, WE EXPECT THAT THE ULLSTEN VIEW WILL PREVAIL, MEANING THAT AID TO CUBA WILL REMAIN AT PRESENT LEVELS UNTIL GOS COMMITMENT ENDS IN 1980.  
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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